

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, 600,000 to 700,000 persons in the United States are projected to have Lynch syndrome, however less than 5% are currently diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, Lynch syndrome creates a hereditary predisposition to a litany of cancers at a high lifetime risk and often at an early age. The risk includes up 80% for colorectal cancer and a 60% risk of endometrial cancer; and

WHEREAS, on average, approximately 311 citizens of Vermont are annually diagnosed with colorectal cancer, of which almost 62 (20%) cancers are projected to be the result of familial or hereditary conditions, including Lynch syndrome; and

WHEREAS, annually in Vermont, approximately 126 women are projected to be diagnosed with endometrial cancer. Three to seven percent of these cancers are projected to be a result of Lynch syndrome and many of these cancers can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, individuals diagnosed with Lynch syndrome face a high risk of other cancers including ovarian cancer, gastric tract cancers, hepatobiliary cancers, renal pelvic cancers, bladder cancers, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, skin cancer, brain cancer and, in some subsets, breast cancer. Many of these cancers are often preventable with annual cancer screenings; and

WHEREAS, assessment of family medical history of cancers and universal testing of colorectal and uterine tumors for characteristics of Lynch syndrome may prompt genetic testing; and

WHEREAS, a positive genetic test will determine if these cancers are hereditary or familial, qualify affected individuals for regular cancer screening tests and growths, polyps and tumors may be detected early and treated or removed before becoming life threatening cancers; and

WHEREAS, many families in Vermont will be protected and lives saved as a result of a diagnosis of Lynch syndrome and/or other hereditary and familial cancers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim March 22, 2013 as

LYNCH SYNDROME HEREDITARY CANCER PUBLIC AWARENESS DAY

in Vermont and encourage all citizens to learn their family histories of cancer and discuss it with their physicians in order to protect families and save lives from hereditary cancers.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 28th day of February, A.D. 2013.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", is written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor